



# Summary of Summer Food Service Program Operations During COVID-19

Arizona Department of Education  
Health and Nutrition Services

## Applicable waivers through December 31, 2020:

### Non-Congregate Feeding

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) operators may provide non-congregate meals during COVID-19 related operations.

### Meal Pattern Flexibility

FNS waives the requirements to serve SFSP and SSO meals that meet the meal pattern requirements during COVID-19 related operations. In addition, this waives the requirement that schools must offer students a variety (at least two different options) of fluid milk. All other fluid milk requirements remain in effect.

### Area Eligibility

FNS extends the ability for School Food Authorities (SFAs) and Community Organizations (COs) in good standing to apply to operate SFSP or SSO at non-area eligible sites during COVID-19 operations. This flexibility allows local Program operators the ability to serve meals to children in need while managing the impacts of COVID-19.

### Parent Guardian Pick Up

Under this waiver, in partnership with the non-congregate meal distribution waiver, program operators may distribute meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their children. Program operators must be able to maintain accountability and program integrity.

### Offer vs. Serve (OVS)

Under this waiver, SFAs and COs must be able to follow the OVS meal service requirements in their entirety as stipulated below. OVS is designed for congregate feeding and, if used in a non-congregate setting, must be done so with thoughtful planning and consideration. OVS is not intended to be a way to circumvent meal pattern requirements or eliminate specific components. Please see "COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #51" for specific requirements for each meal type.

### First Week Site Visits

SFAs and COs are permitted to forgo site visits in the first week of operations during the COVID-19 emergency, for sites that operated successfully in the previous year. This flexibility would reduce administrative burden and ensures appropriate social distancing safety measures for the purpose of providing meals and meal supplements.

### Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites

SFSP and NSLP (SSO) closed enrolled sites during the COVID-19 public health emergency may determine site eligibility through area eligibility without collecting income eligibility applications. School-level data or census tract data may be used in addition to the option of collecting and processing income applications.

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## **Applicable waivers through December 31, 2020 (continued):**

### **Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions**

SFAs and COs are permitted to serve SFSP and SSO meals outside of the standard mealtimes. This waiver permits Program operators the option to offer multiple meals through non-congregate meal service.

### **Nationwide Waiver to allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through December 2020**

SFAs and COs may begin and resume their SFSP/SSO operations until December 31st, 2020. It should be noted that this is only optional and those who are currently operating NSLP or have completed their SFSP season are not required to switch or resume SFSP operations.